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This is a summary of arguments to be made at the interview scheduled for June 17.

Hakansson has been newly cited. Applicant believes that Hakansson discloses no more than has already been admitted to be prior art in the first paragraph of claim 11 (Jepson format).

Exhibit A, attached, shows Hakansson as modified by the teachings of Casey, specifically Figs. 9 and 10. In Exhibit A, there is a cap that protects "the twisted ends of a ligature wire." See col. 1, lines 5-6. The loop of the cap retains the wires, but is not otherwise attached to the orthodontic assembly.

Exhibit B, attached, shows how Hakansson is modified according to the invention. The cap protects the end of the wire, and the loop is used to retain the cap by attachment to the bracket system surrounding the molar tube.

Nothing in either Hakansson or Casey suggests protecting the end of the wire with a cap having a loop which is attached to the bracket system. The loop or strap 35 shown in Figs. 9 and 10 of Casey is used to prevent the cap from coming free from the twisted ends; see col. 4, lines 1-2. The strap 35 is not a "fixing element" as is presently claimed.

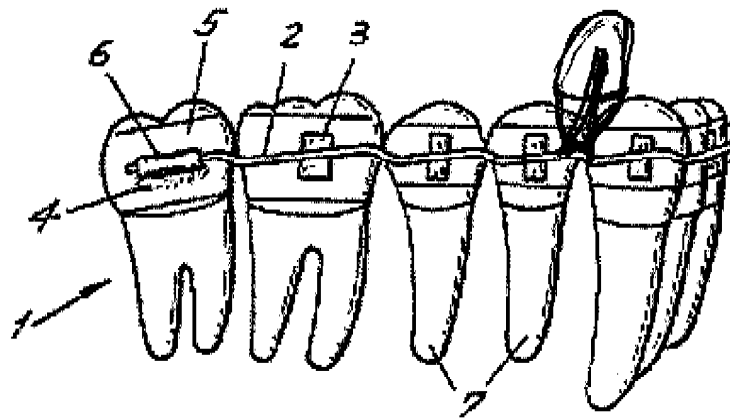


FIG. 1.

Exhibit A
Hakansson as modified by
Casey

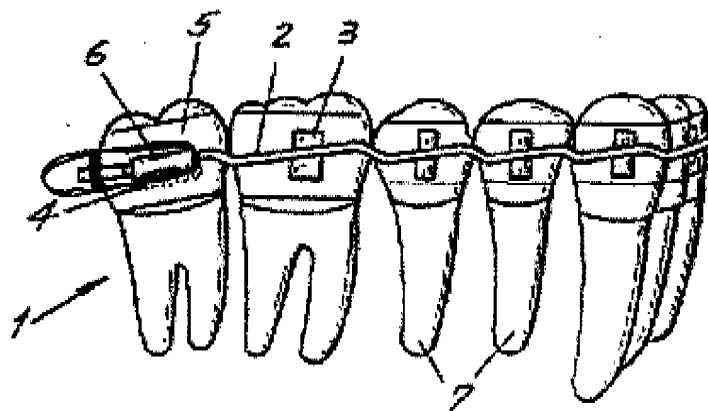


FIG. 1.

Exhibit B
Hakansson as modified
according to the invention